

Brador Hills and Guernesé Lake Foothills Proposed Biodiversity Reserves

Public Hearings
Saint-Augustin

October, 19th
2006



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MDDEP Representatives

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- ✓ **Marilou Tremblay**, Analyst, Direction de l'analyse et de l'expertise régionales de la Côte-Nord, MDDEP

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Our Expectations

- ✓ Present these proposed biodiversity reserves;
- ✓ Hear the concerns and views of the population regarding these projects;
- ✓ Discuss the different aspects of these projects;
- ✓ Improve our analysis and comprehension of these territories;
- ✓ Ensure that the local populations are partners of these projects.

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Preamble

- ✓ This week, public hearings have also been held on two other proposed biodiversity reserves;
- ✓ Belmont and Magpie Lakes Massif and Sauterelles Lake Knolls.



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Historical Benchmarks

1992 **Earth Summit** (Rio de Janeiro): protected areas are a key element to ensure the protection of the biodiversity;

1999 Quebec portrays a summary of protected areas;

2000 The government adopts strategic orientations to set up a network of protected areas:

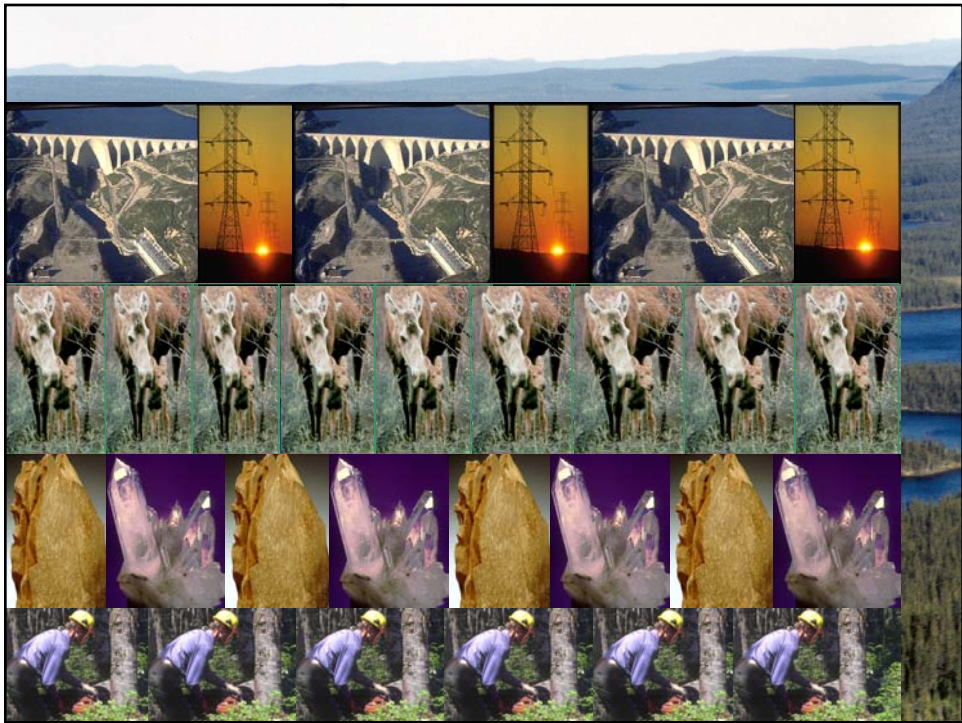
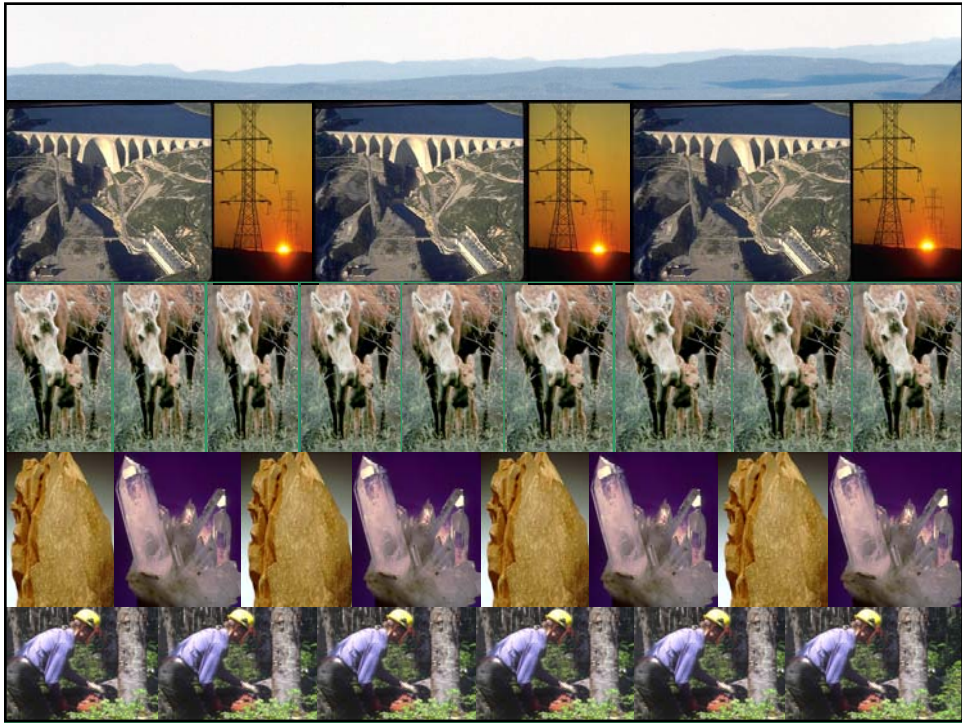
Qualitative target : set up a network of protected areas representative of Quebec's biodiversity.

Social objective : take into account the socioeconomic conditions of the population and its communities.

Quantitative target : protect 8% of the surface area of Quebec by 2005 (revaluated to 2008).

2002 The *Strategic Plan of Action for Protected Areas* and the *Natural Heritage Conservation Act* are adopted.

2003 The government assigns the status of proposed biodiversity reserve to the Guernesé Lake foothills and Brador hills.





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Contribution to protect the biodiversity of the natural province

Brador Hills :

Hills with limestone outcrops specific to this region

Presence of limestone-specific vascular plants

Complex of five hills



Guernesé Lake FootHills :

Old spruce forest on a well drained moraine

Dry heaths to the east

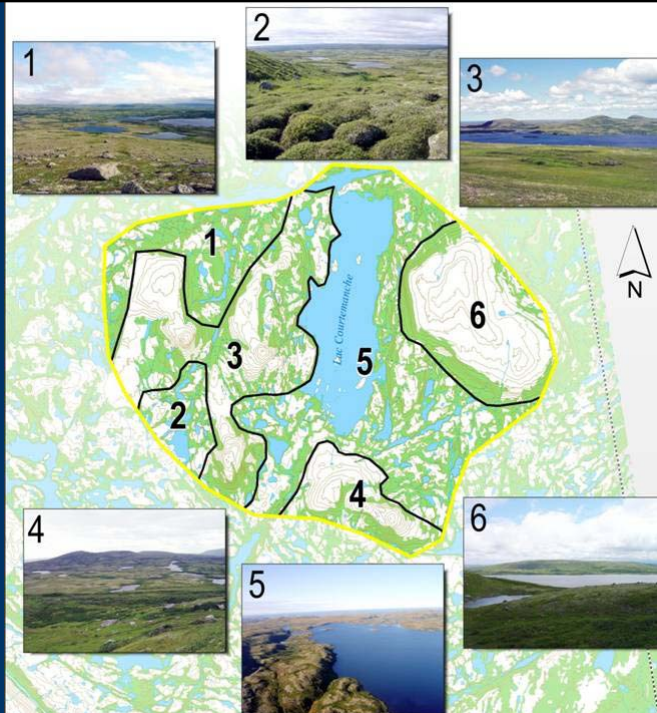
Foothills representative of the physical environment of the Basse-Côte-Nord (geology, soils and relief (topography)).

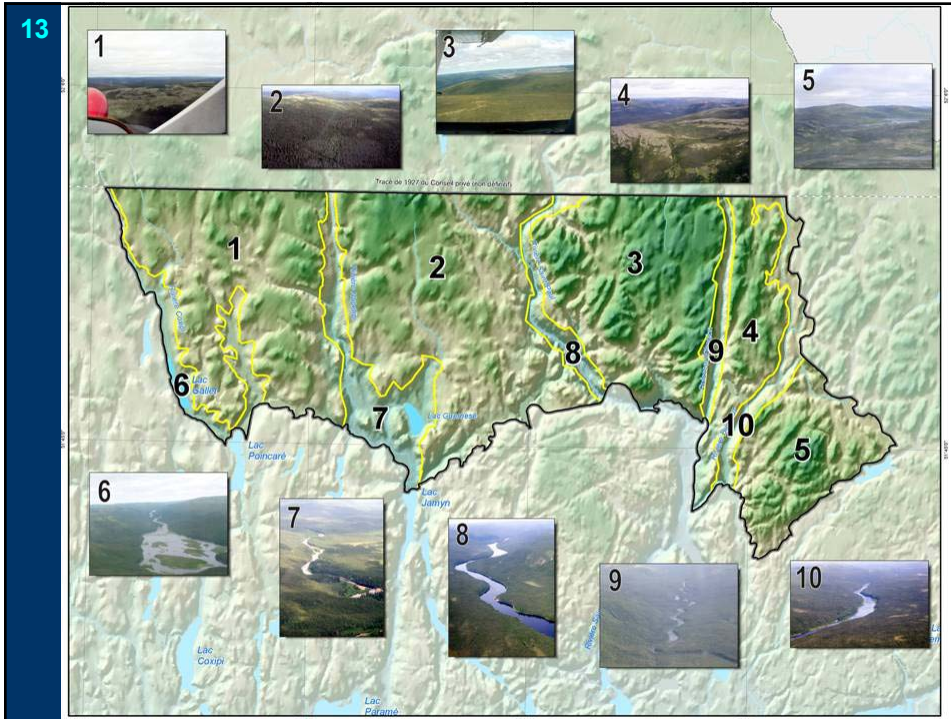
Important salmon rivers

Historical presence of caribou (Herd of Saint-Augustine)



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14 **Contribution to protect the biodiversity of the natural province**


Belmont and Maggie Lakes Massif :

Large U-shaped glaciated valley

Several habitats suitable for vulnerable species (caribou, golden eagle,...)

Gray pine forest

Mountain and subalpine black spruce forests with white spruce




Sauterelles Lake Knolls :

Complex of well drained monticules

Witness of four phenomenon linked to the last glaciation

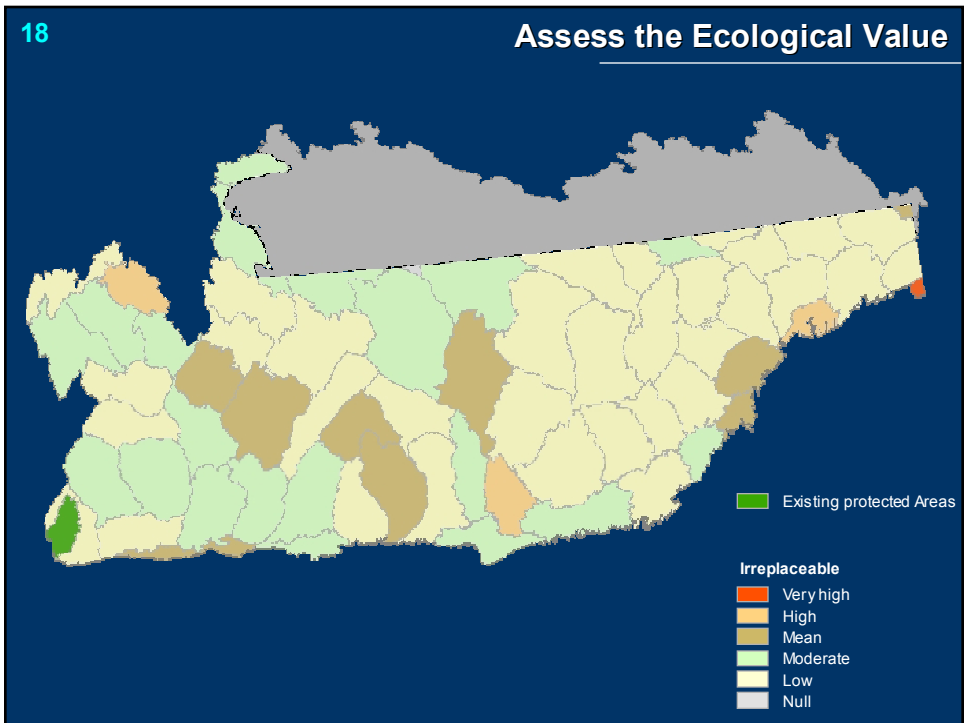
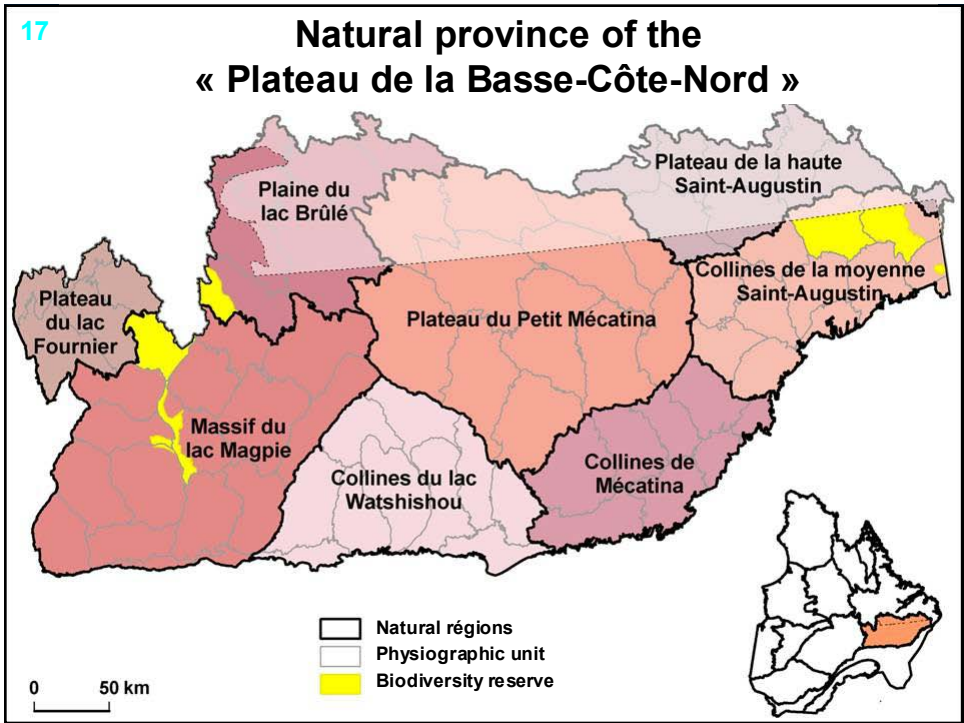
Black spruce forests with lichen and black spruce forests with moss





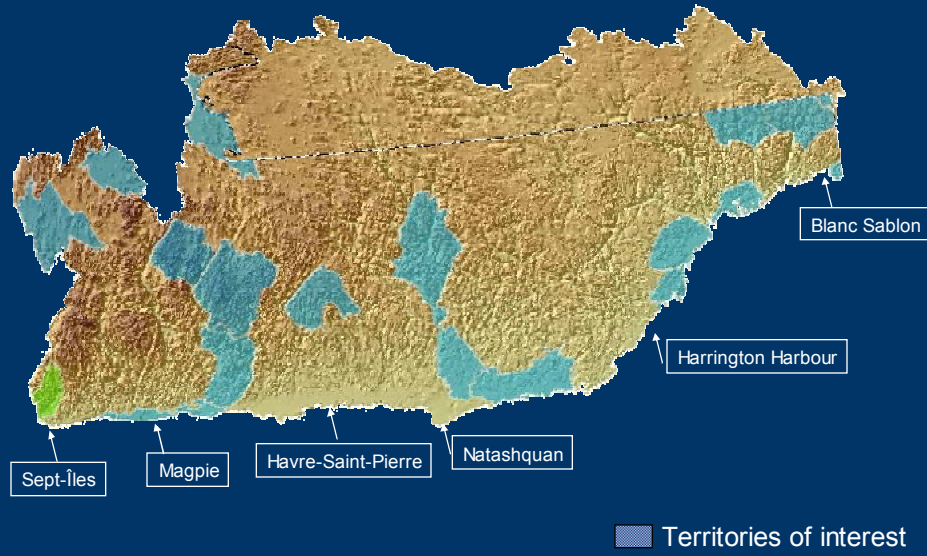
16 **Representativeness**

- A tool: The ecological reference framework
- Representativeness criterion :
 - Environment patterns
 - Geology and geomorphology
 - Hydrography and lakes
 - Forest cover (species, age)
 - Climatic conditions



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Territories of interest

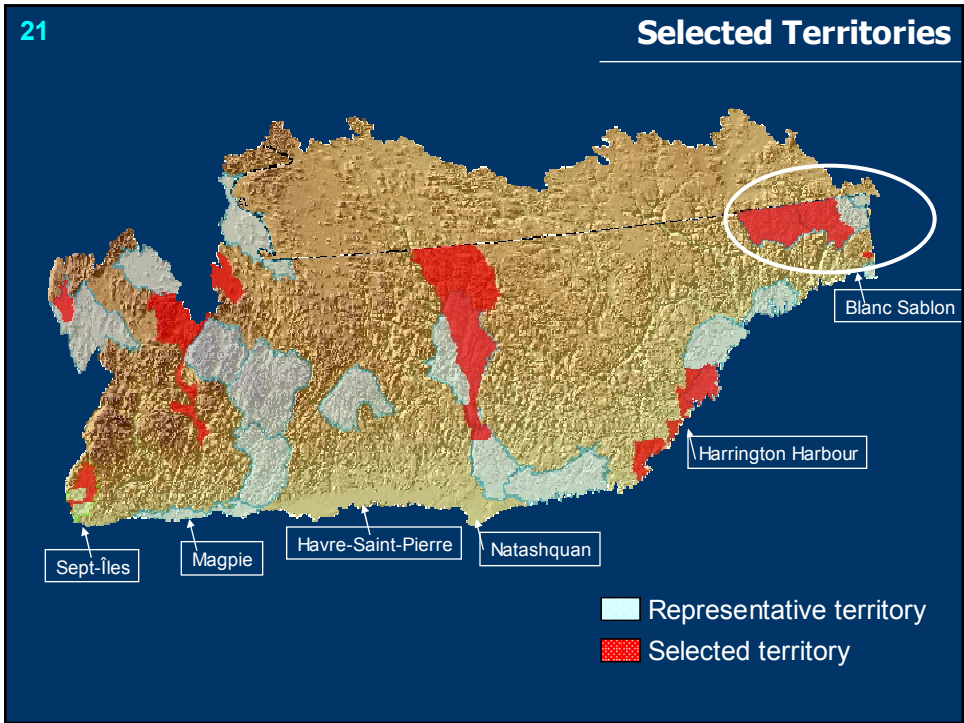


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Assess Potential Economic Impacts

Aire candidate V-2	Positions					
	Forêt	Mines	Hydro	Territoire	Faune	MDDEP
AC-E01	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
AC-E2	ok	Exploration 2003+rouvrir entente	ok	ok	ok	Réserve projetée
AC-E3	ok	ok	ok	ok	Agrandir ultér. au nord; terr. caribou	ok
AC-E4	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok	ok
	ok	voir claims	Projet réservoir	ok	ok	ok
	ok	ok	Projet réservoir	ok	ok	ok
	ok	Agrégats et tourbe	Problématique	Atténuation Ville Havre St-Pierre	ok	ok

Selected Territories



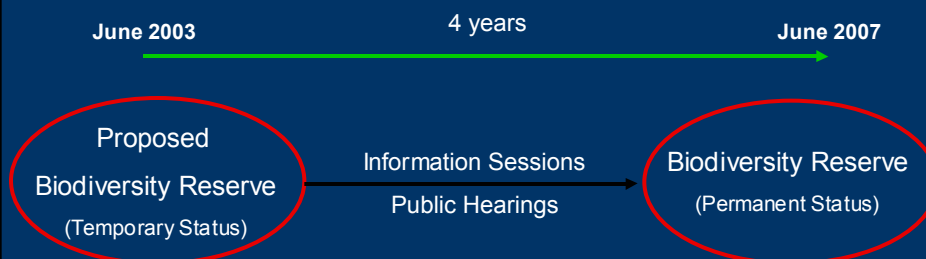
What's a Biodiversity Reserve ?



- A Proposed Biodiversity Reserve is a protected area
- What is a protected area ?
 - ✓ *An area of land or water dedicated to the protection of biological diversity and associated natural and cultural resources;*
 - ✓ *An area legally designated;*
 - ✓ *An area managed through legal or other effective means.*
- What is a Biodiversity Reserve ?
 - ✓ *An area dedicated to promote and maintain the representative biodiversity of different natural regions of Quebec*

What does a 'Proposed' status mean ?

- Land put aside to eventually create a permanent Biodiversity Reserve;
- Major industrial activities are prohibited;
- Existing recreational activities, leases and rights maintained;
- No new activity that may significantly harms the biodiversity;
- No new lease;
- Permanent status will be adopted following Public Hearings.





Land Use

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Land Use

- ✓ ATV's and snowmobiles
- ✓ Camps or cabins (unregistered)
- ✓ Berry and plant gathering
- ✓ Wood harvesting (building and heating purposes)
- ✓ Fishing
- ✓ Trapping
- ✓ Hunting
- ✓ Outfitting
- ✓ Native traditional activities
- ✓ These activities are practiced on a regular basis
- ✓ Accessibility is better during winter

Conservation Issues



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Conservation Issues

• Ecological Issues

- **Maintain the biodiversity of the protected ecosystems**
 - Provide an adequate framework for the carrying on of activities to ensure the:
 - carrying capacity of ecosystems are respected;
 - activities are compatibility with the protection objectives.
 - Implement an evaluation procedure for projects;
 - Ensure protection of sensitive species' habitats (woodland caribou, Atlantic salmon, limestone-specific plant species).
- **Increase our understanding of the territories and promote general public awareness**
 - Encourage the implementation of a knowledge acquisition program and an activities and biodiversity follow-up program;
 - Focus on educational and awareness raising efforts within and outside the two biodiversity reserves.

• Socioeconomic issues**• Involve local representatives**

- Management of the two territories should be supported by key users;
- Take into account the lifestyle and activities of the inhabitants of the Basse-Côte-Nord while respecting the conservation objectives of the biodiversity reserves.

• Promote sustainable development

- Encourage the sustainable development of the biodiversity reserves while taking into account the fragility of certain environments and the carrying capacity of ecosystems.

**Management
Terms and
Conditions**

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Management terms and conditions

The Ministry proposes to implement seven principles for the management of the two biodiversity reserves :

- Ecosystemic management;
- Regionalized management;
- Participatory management;
- Coherent management;
- Responsible management;
- Flexible management;
- Minimal management.

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Planning versus management

• Two steps :

- **Implementation of a network of protected areas before 2008**
 - Land put aside (proposed status)
 - Industrial activities no longer permitted
 - Get permanent statutes of protection
 - Ensure protection of resources and natural habitats through an appropriate framing of certain activities
- **Define specific management rules for each territory**
 - Ministerial working group in place
 - Involve local representatives

Activity regime



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Three categories of activities

- **prohibited activities**
 - examples : forest management, hydraulic resources development and mining development
- **activities requiring an authorization**
 - examples : new constructions
- **permitted activities**
 - maintain all rights acquired prior to the implementation of the proposed reserve
 - examples : wild berry gathering, hunting, fishing, trapping, native activities

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Conclusion

These projects will allow :

- ✓ Preserve the region's natural areas quality
- ✓ Protect its biodiversity and particular species, habitats and ecosystems
- ✓ Involve local users in the management of these two biodiversity reserves
- ✓ Harmonize protection/development/uses

